

# BELMONT TRASH AND RECYCLING

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# Current Status and Direction

- Current trash and recycling collection contract expires June 30, 2016. A change in level of service or vendor will require time for implementation.
- Need new cost figures to correctly budget for FY17
- Validate competitive pricing
- Validate changes in recycling market
- Balance residents' expectations and Town's fiscal resources
- Meet the environmental goals of the community

# Current Trash Contract

- Collected weekly – 4 Days Monday-Thursday

Weekly collection of Municipal of trash for all Belmont dwelling units, Belmont Public Facilities and Schools. Estimated 9,958 locations and **NO** weekend collection.

- Unlimited Barrels – If it is at the curb...it goes away
- Unlimited Bulky items (furniture and similar items)
- Budgeted for FY16 Trash Collection ~ \$1,074,145



# Belmont is doing a good job!

- MA DEP uses tons of trash/household for measurement
- MA DEP would like municipalities to be under 1.0 tons/hhld/year

\*Below is a MA DEP formula based on barrel size to calculate the amounts of trash in the average household with a curbside recycling plan.

- |                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| • 64-gal barrel/week | 1.0 tons/hhld        |
| • 48-gal barrel/week | .85 tons/hhld        |
| • 35-gal barrel/week | .7 tons/hhld         |
| • <b>Belmont</b>     | <b>.74 tons/hhld</b> |

# Current Recycling Contract

- **Collected every other week (EOW)**

Every other week (EOW) collection of separated, dual stream recycling (one of paper products, one of assorted acceptable container materials) for all Belmont dwelling units, Belmont Public Facilities and Schools.  
Estimated 4,979 locations collected weekly.

- **Dual stream**

Residents separate paper and cardboard from glass, tin, aluminum and plastic containers.

- **Marketing of commodities is included in the Contract price**

- **DPW Recycle Days**

Collection of items not taken curbside twice a year at the DPW Yard  
Bulky rigid plastics, Styrofoam, textiles, electronics, books, DVD's, CD's, paper shredding and eyeglasses.

- **Budgeted for FY16 Recycling Collection ~ \$376,285**



# Comparison with Neighboring Towns

## MSW/Recycling Ratios

- **Information is from MA DEP CY13:**
- Arlington, 3-32 gal. barrel limit  
.63 tons of trash/hshld, recycling rate – 29% single stream
- Bedford, 48 gal barrel limit  
.88 tons of trash/hshld, recycling rate – 28% dual stream
- Belmont, **UNLIMITED**  
.76 tons of trash/hshld, recycling rate – 22% dual stream
- Lexington, 5 bag/barrel limit  
.74 tons of trash/hshld, recycling rate - 36% dual stream

# Yard Waste

- Curbside (36 week season, collection every other week)
- Fall-Clean up season—Every week collection and drop-off at transfer station (7 weeks).
- Total Yard Waste pick-ups per dwelling = 22 per year
- Budgeted for FY 16 Collection and processing ~ \$317,532



# Appliance and CRT Collection

- Weekly Thursday collection
- Unlimited number of items
- Fee – Per item

CRT's - \$15.00

Appliances - \$20.00



# Industry Trends

- Trash - Automated Collection – truck with side arm
- Recycling - Single Stream Recycling (SSR) or traditional collection. Historically, the economy of commodities in the global market has been stable...the last 2 years have been volatile and unpredictable



# Automated Collection (Trash)

- **Pros**

- Saves money, need only one person to operate trash truck
- Cuts down on worker's compensation claims
- Uses wheeled carts, limits trash, including bulky items...Statistically trash tonnages go down

- **Cons**

- Large, upfront investment in carts and equipment
- Carts only warrantied for 10 years
- Carts need replacement and maintenance
- Bulky items need traditional collection truck with an additional cost
- Trash pick-up is limited to the size of the wheeled cart, eliminating unlimited trash collection

# Single Stream Recycling (SSR)

- **Pros**

- Eliminates manual separation, makes it easier to recycle for residents
- Haulers can collect automated or in rear packer truck, allowing hauler to fit more material
- Statistically, gross recycling tonnages go up

- **Cons**

- Lots of contamination, trash and wishful recycling; reducing net recycling percentages
- Processors losing money on sorting out and paying for contaminants that are now disposed of as trash
- Processors are charging a processing or tip fee based on tonnage making it increasingly expensive for communities to recycle

# Dual Stream Recycling Market/Commodities

- Our current Dual Stream system produces less contamination (especially paper items) which has more value to the processor
- Environmentally responsible
- Recyclables can be sold as commodities
- Greater insulation to market swings - \$\$ Risks
- Provides local jobs



# Belmont's Current Level of Service

- Weekly four day collection, Monday -Thursday
- No trash quantity limit
- No limit on Bulky items (couches, chairs, etc.) and move-in/outs
- Dual stream recycling (every other week)
- DPW Office acts as dispatcher
- No drop-off site available
- 36 week season of Yard Waste Collection

# Strategies for Belmont?

- Implementing strategies that will put the Town in a better position now and in the future
- Adequately communicate and prepare the community for possible changes in service
- Take into consideration what packaging and resident behaviors will be in 3-5 years
- Balancing residents expectations between services, cost and environmental impacts

# Trash Contract Options/Recommendations

- **Solicit bids or extend the current contract for continued level of service (no changes)**
  - Continue with current trash collection program for a limited period of time (3-5 years)
- **If the recommendation is supported by the Board of Selectmen... staff will use the this time to gather information through:**
  - Trash Audits
  - Precinct Meetings
  - Survey's
  - Demonstrations
  - Cost Analysis
  - Education and outreach
  - Evaluate recycling markets
- **Staff will analyze the data and present their findings with options for the next contract in 12-18 months.**